

Claims

1. A method for imaging multi-page spreads, comprising:
 - receiving multi-page spread raster data of at least one of the multi-page spreads of a print job from a raster image processor, the multi-page spread raster data processed by the raster image processor as a single file;
 - receiving a press sheet template, the press sheet template comprising prepress imposition data;
 - modifying the press sheet template to accommodate the multi-page spread raster data; and
 - digitally applying the modified press sheet template to the multi-page spread raster data on demand to form a press sheet assembly.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to the step of receiving a press sheet template, the steps of:
 - receiving prepress imposition data from an imposition generator, the prepress imposition data comprising position, sequencing, orientation, bleeds, and offset parameters for at least the number of individual pages comprising the multi-page spread to be positioned on a press sheet and further comprising press sheet imposition parameters;
 - extracting the position, sequencing, orientation, bleeds, and offset parameters, and the press sheet imposition parameters from the prepress imposition data; and
 - producing the press sheet template from the prepress imposition data.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of modifying the press sheet template comprises modifying the position, bleeds and offset parameters for the predetermined number of adjacent pages.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the predetermined number of adjacent pages is the number of pages of at least one of the multi-page spreads.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of digitally applying the modified press sheet template further comprises digitally applying the modified press sheet template to raster data of other pages of the print job.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises, prior to the step of receiving multi-page spread raster data, the steps of:

creating a multi-page spread image file coded in a page description language;
receiving by the raster image processor the multi-page spread image file;
interpreting by the raster image processor the multi-page spread image file to produce the multi-page spread raster data; and

transmitting by the raster image processor the multi-page spread raster data.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of rendering the press sheet assembly to a destination device.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the destination device is selected from a group consisting of:

a platesetter for imaging onto a plate;
an imagesetter for imaging onto photosensitive paper and film;
a printer for imaging onto plain paper;
a storage medium for storing a file, and
a direct on-press imaging system for imaging onto a press.

9. A print drive, comprising:

an input subsystem for receiving multi-page spread raster data of at least one of the multi-page spreads of a print job, the multi-page spread raster data processed by a raster image processor, and for receiving a press sheet template, the press sheet template comprising prepress imposition data;

a digital press sheet modifier in communication with the input subsystem and the data store; the digital press sheet modifier digitally modifying the press sheet template to accommodate the multi-page raster data; and

a digital press sheet assembler in communication with the digital press sheet modifier; the digital press sheet assembler digitally applying the modified press sheet template to the multi-page raster data on demand to form a press sheet assembly.

10. The print drive of claim 9, wherein the digital press sheet assembler, in addition to digitally applying the modified press sheet template to the multi-page raster data, further applies the modified press sheet template to raster data of other pages of the print job to form a press sheet assembly on demand.

11. The print drive of claim 9, wherein the input subsystem receives the press sheet template from a raster image processor.

12. The print drive of claim 9, further comprising:
a data store in communication with the input subsystem for storing the received press sheet template and the multi-page spread raster data.

13. The print drive of claim 9, further comprising:
an output subsystem in communication with the digital press sheet assembler, the output terminal capable of transmitting the press sheet assembly to a destination device.

14. The print drive system of claim 13, wherein the destination device is selected from a group consisting of:
a platesetter for imaging onto a plate;
an imagesetter for imaging onto photosensitive paper and film;
a printer for imaging onto plain paper;
a storage medium for storing a file, and
a direct on-press imaging system for imaging onto a press.

15. An imaging system, comprising:

a page generator for creating at least one of the multi-page spread files of a print job;

an imposition generator for creating prepress imposition data; the prepress imposition data comprising position, sequencing, orientation, bleeds, and offset parameters for at least one page to be positioned on a press sheet and further comprising press sheet imposition parameters;

a raster image processor in electrical communication with the page generator, the raster image processor processing the multi-page spread file to produce multi-page spread raster data; and

a print drive in electrical communication with the raster image processor, the print drive comprising:

an input subsystem for receiving multi-page spread raster data of at least one of the multi-page spreads of a print job, the multi-page spread raster data processed by a raster image processor, and for receiving a press sheet template, the press sheet template comprising prepress imposition data; and

a digital press sheet modifier in communication with the input subsystem; the digital press sheet modifier digitally modifying the press sheet template to accommodate the multi-page raster data; and

a digital press sheet assembler in communication with the digital press sheet modifier; the digital press sheet assembler digitally applying the modified press sheet template to the multi-page raster data on demand to form a press sheet assembly .

16. The imaging system of claim 15, wherein the digital press sheet assembler, in addition to digitally applying the modified press sheet template to the multi-page raster data, further applies the modified press sheet template to raster data of other pages of the print job to form a press sheet assembly on demand.

17. The imaging system of claim 15, further comprising a destination device in electrical communication with the print drive, the destination device is selected from a group consisting of:

a platesetter for imaging onto a plate;

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- an imagesetter for imaging onto photosensitive paper and film;
- a printer for imaging onto plain paper;
- a storage medium for storing a file, and
- a direct on-press imaging system for imaging onto a press.

18. The imaging system of claim 17, wherein the print drive further comprises an output subsystem in communication with the digital press sheet assembler, the output subsystem capable of transmitting the press sheet assembly to the destination device.

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